



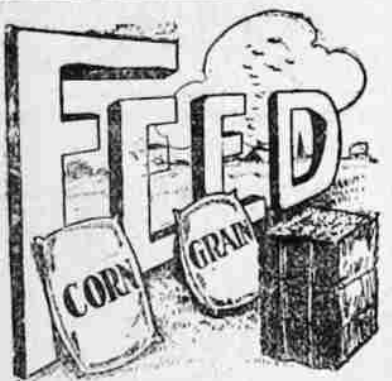
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REPORT MADE ON BELGIAN HONOR

London, Dec. 4, 8:45 p. m.—Herbert Clark Hoover, chairman of the American commission for relief in Belgium, returned to London today after a week's trip of inspection in Belgium. Mr. Hoover reported that the distribution of foodstuffs sent in care of the American commission is well under way, but stated that the condition of famine which threatened the population is still desperate and that on account of the attitude of the belligerents the Belgians must still appeal to the people of the United States for relief.

"It is difficult to state the position of the civil population of Belgium without appearing hysterical," Mr. Hoover said in his statement. "I do not know that history presents any parallel of a population of 7,000,000 people surrounded by a ring of steel and utterly unable by any conceivable effort of their own to save themselves."

Different Claims.

"From the nature of things it is impossible for the commissions even to possess an opinion on the rights and wrongs which have created this situation. The Germans state flatly that the people of Belgium are normally dependent on the importation of foodstuffs for five-sixths of their subsistence; that the Germans have not the slightest objection to the Belgians or anyone else importing foodstuffs into Belgium; that it is not the Germans who have blocked the overseas supply, and that there is no obligation upon them to feed the civil population which could, through the normal course of trade, obtain subsistence. The allies, on the other hand, contend that a free port for the importation of foodstuffs into Belgium would practically amount to an entree for food supplies for the Germans. It is enough for us that there are 7,000,000 people ground between two gigantic millstones."

Rights Respected.

"We are meeting with no obstruction from the military authorities of Belgium in the prosecution of our work. Not one loaf of bread or one spoonful of salt that we have introduced has been taken by the military. The most stringent instructions have been given that we shall have no interference and our members meet with respect and assistance in all quarters."

"There are considerable quantities of vegetables available in certain districts. In some localities there is still a supply of cereals for two or three weeks, but in certain other localities there has been no bread available for more than a fortnight. Every soul will be dependent upon us for bread within thirty days."

"So far our efforts have necessarily been devoted to provisioning the larger centers. It requires organization and patience to be able to penetrate the outlying towns and villages. It

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will be difficult for the people of the United States to comprehend the difficulties which we meet with in purely executive matters in the elaboration of this work.

"The clock has absolutely stopped in Belgium. An industrial country which was dependent on the overseas before is now walled up, with 70 per cent of the people idle. There are no telegraphs, telephones, railways or post-offices, except for military purposes. The Belgians, of a military necessity, are not allowed to pass from their own towns, and consequently there is no communication throughout the country except by personal visits of our members."

"Transportation by rail is possible in only a few directions and then must await military necessity. The wonderful canal system is blocked in many places by the destruction of bridges and some canals have been allowed to run dry. Therefore it becomes part of our business to get these cleared and to stimulate the subsidiary transport services of the country, not only for the transportation of our food, but to permit the transportation of coal from the Belgian mines—a sore necessity this winter."

"There are no courts and the prisons have been emptied."

"The amount and character of the destitution perhaps may be appreciated from the present position in Brussels. Of the population of about 650,000 remaining in the city, an average of 215,000 were on the adult canteens and 3000 babies were on the baby canteens last week, or more than one-third of the total population. Probably no more pitiable sight ever was presented than the long lines of mothers with children in arms waiting their turn at these canteens. In the industrial districts, where the people naturally would have smaller stores on hand than in the capital, a much larger population is now on the communal canteens, in some instances more than 60 per cent of the whole number."

"Brussels consumed 3000 sacks of flour per diem. There were just 321 sacks of flour in the city when our first shipment of foodstuffs arrived. When I left Brussels yesterday morning there were 15,000 sacks in the city, or about five days' supply. We have about two or three days' supplies in Liege and similar supplies in other centers, such as Louvain, Charleroi, Namur and Luxembourg."

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FRENCH WELL INTO ALSACE

(By C. F. Bertilli.)

Paris, Dec. 4.—Private information has reached me from the Swiss frontier which shows that the French progress in Alsace, which has been considerable during the past week, is causing the utmost alarm to the German defenders.

The French advances in this direction constitute a serious menace to Strassburg and the Germans are feverishly preparing to defend the famous fortress.

Dozens of private forests and parks, which might serve to cover an advancing French army, have been razed in the southwestern suburbs of Strassburg. Already the French progress near Colmar is formidable, while Guebwiller is almost completely surrounded.

The Germans have mined several quarters of Muehlhausen in order to dynamite the town at the moment of the French entry, which is considered imminent.

KITCHENER IS MISREPRESENTED

London, Dec. 4, 10:20 p. m.—The press association announced tonight that it had been officially informed with reference to an interview purporting to have been had by Irvin S. Cobb with Lord Kitchener, which was printed in the United States, that the language is not that of Lord Kitchener and that his lordship's official representative expresses surprise that it should have been regarded possible that Lord Kitchener would say:

"The war has not lasted less than three years," Lord Kitchener said. "It will end only when Germany is thoroughly defeated, not before—defeated on land and on sea. That the allies will win is certain. That for us to win will require a minimum period of three years, I think probable. It might last longer, this war might, it might and sooner. It can end in only one way."

"That it will end in a month from now, or six months or a year I do not think likely; so to be on the safe side, I say three years—at least three years."

**PICKPOCKETS FIND
CONDITIONS HARD**
New York, Dec. 4.—More than 100 pickpockets, unable to make a living by following their vocation, have turned temporarily honest within the last two months and have sought work, according to records made public today by the department of correction.

"Old-time pickpockets tell us," said Deputy Commissioner Lewis, "that by rifling fifty or sixty pockets a day they can make only \$15 or so a week. They used to be able to retire for a month after picking half a dozen pockets. Folks haven't been carrying money in their clothes recently."

"Some of the pickpockets have turned gunmen. This may account in part for the so-called crime wave. If the situation continues, all the pickpockets in the city probably will go out of business."

Denver, Colo., Dec. 4.—State-wide prohibition carried in Colorado by a majority of 11,572, according to the official canvass compiled today. The vote for the measure was 129,539; against, 118,017.

ALLIES PREPARE FOR BIG BATTLE

Paris, Dec. 4, 10:37 p. m.—The following official communication was issued tonight:

"At no place along the entire front has there been any notable incident."

"On our right wing we have made progress in the direction of and near to Altkirch."

"During the day of December 2 we made 931 prisoners in the region of the north alone."

Paris, Dec. 4.—General Joffre's allied forces are marshaled for a final test of strength with the Germans. The counter-offensive, which is to be the supreme effort of the French commander in chief, to compel the withdrawal of the invaders from France, Alsace and West Flanders, is gradually developing and the arrival of the psychological moment is all that is awaited for the great drive.

Simultaneously in Flanders along the Aisne and in Alsace—on three distinct fronts where the fighting of the past few days has developed great vigor—the fury of the grand assault is expected to break forth.

Joffre's Grand Army.

For two weeks, ever since the campaign on the eastern frontier began to turn in favor of the Russian army, the strength of the allied armies has been rolling up in great billows until today Joffre has at his command a grand army as perfect in equipment, in training and in morale as modern science of war can develop.

Already unofficial reports, partially confirmed by official statements, tell of fighting of unprecedented proportions in Flanders and of another great battle in Alsace.

The Arras engagement, terrific though it has been during the past few days, dwindles in importance when compared with the significance of the new battle along the Yser.

Official reports from the front record repulses to the German attempts to retrieve their lost territory between Becelaere, five miles due east of Arras and pass Chendelea, seven miles northeast of that town.

These are points on the allies' salient thrown out to protect Ypres from German assault. The infantry of the invaders attempted to advance under vigorous cannonading, but they were met and thrown back by the British and Scottish battalions holding these positions.

In the development of the fighting to the north of Arras the French troops were able to continue the work of strengthening the positions taken from the Germans in the fighting of Monday, particularly at Vermelles, between Lens and La Bassée.

NAVAL BRIGADE DID GOOD WORK

London, Dec. 4, 9:35 p. m.—Field Marshal Sir John French, in a dispatch covering the report of General Archibald Paris, who commanded the British naval brigade at Antwerp, gives further testimony to the good effect the sending of that force to the assistance of the Belgians had on the allies' campaign generally, and thus further supports the action of Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, who has been criticised for sending it.

General French says:

"Although the results did not include the actual saving of the fortress, the action of the force under General Paris unquestionably delayed the enemy for a considerable time and assisted the Belgian army to be withdrawn in a condition to enable it to reorganize and regain its value as a fighting force."

"The destruction of war material and ammunition, which, but for the intervention of this force, would have proved of great value to the enemy, Kitchener used such expressions."

The official press bureau tonight issued the following statement on the subject:

"With reference to a so-called interview with Mr. Cobb: Although Lord Kitchener saw Mr. Cobb a few minutes on October 21, nothing in the nature of a special interview was granted and the remarks attributed to the secretary of state for war are imaginary."

The statement attributed to Lord Kitchener by Irvin S. Cobb, which has called forth an official denial by the press bureau of the British war office is probably the following, taken from this week's issue of the Saturday Evening Post:

"The assistance which the Belgian army has rendered throughout the subsequent course of operations on the canal and Yser river has been a valuable asset to the allied cause and such help must be regarded as the outcome of the intervention of General Paris's force."

"I am further of the opinion that the moral effect produced on the minds of the Belgian army by this necessarily desperate attempt to give them succor before it was too late has been of great value to their use and efficiency as a fighting force."

General Paris says in his report that the capture of some of his brigade and the internment in Holland of others was due to the fact that the roads were crowded with refugees, to fatigue and partly to "at present unexplained causes."

When Antwerp was bombarded, General Paris says, the water supply was cut off and the whole city would have been destroyed by fire had there been any wind.

COBB REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE CORN

New York, Dec. 4.—Irvin S. Cobb made this statement tonight regarding his interview with Lord Kitchener:

"By arrangement of a third person of prominence in England I did see Lord Kitchener on October 21 for about forty minutes. I used no pencil and paper during the conversation, following the custom of interviewers. I afterward reproduced the

conversation with Lord Kitchener as exactly as I could. I did not deliberately or willfully misrepresent him, and I am quite positive that I caught his meaning and gave as nearly as possible the text of what he said, and I am sure that I quoted him correctly."

CHARNEL HOUSE NEAR WARSAW

Petrograd, via Venice and London, Dec. 4, 10:35 p. m.—The following official communication was issued tonight:

"In the Carpathians, in West Galicia and in South Poland, quiet prevailed generally yesterday."

"The fighting in North Poland continues."

Petrograd, Dec. 4.—Some surprise has been caused here by the announcement of the general staff that comparative tranquility has set in on all fronts where Russian troops are engaged. It was believed that the great battle of western Poland would be fought to a definite issue without pause or relaxation.

There is no reason to suppose that this period of diminished intensity will be of long duration. Any moment we may hear that operations have been resumed with fresh vigor and this time they will not be likely to calm down until one side or the other has given way. As to which side that will be, no doubt exists here.

Russians Capture Guns.

Unofficial indications that the Germans suffered very heavily continue. A message from Lodz states that ten cannon and seventy-five machine guns—taken from the enemy—have been brought to that town.

The zone whence the Germans succeeded in escaping from the crossfire of the Russian enveloping troops is a perfect charnel house. All who have visited that vast battlefield unite in describing the carnage as horrible. The trenches are choked with layers of German corpses. At one village in three successive charges the Siberian riflemen mowed down the German ranks like wheat.

The views of the best military critics differ considerably as to the meaning of the curious development of the battle of Lodz. Some believe that the Germans are now merely making tremendous efforts to extricate a portion of their army from a position of deadly peril and that the object of the masses of reinforcements which they are bringing up is to cover the retreat of the shaken and exhausted corps on which the brunt of the protracted conflict has fallen. In the opinion of others, the enemy is still bent on the aggressive and hopes by persistent efforts to effect a breach in the Russian line.

ENORMOUS LOSS FOR THE GERMANS

London, Dec. 5, 2:55 p. m.—Experts estimate that the Germans lost two-thirds of their army in Poland in the recent fighting in the region between the Warta and Vistula rivers, says a dispatch from Petrograd to the Morning Post. Prince Oscar and Prince Joachim, sons of the German emperor, are reported to have es-



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ARRAS A CITY OF DESTRUCTION

By PATRICK DE BATHE.

Northern France, Dec. 4.—With the exception of Lille-Fives, a suburb of Lille, that city has been spared by the Germans. Arras, on the other hand, has suffered terribly.

A correspondent who left Lille November 29 states that the inhabitants have not suffered from any unusual exactions. The Germans have satisfied themselves with levying upon necessities of life; they have even undertaken to see to the importation of eggs, butter and milk.

The cafes are open and the tramways are running between Lille, Roubaix and Tourcoing. All the workshops and factories have been left intact. M. de la Salle, the mayor, is compared to the redoubtable Max of Brussels. He seems to exercise a wonderful influence over the German authorities and fights with the greatest tenacity for the rights of his fellow citizens.

Typhoid, contrary to reports, has not broken out in Lille. Several cases have been reported from the German army, any one of which if it develops in the town is removed to the neighborhood of Lomme.

All of the hospitals in Lille have been taken over by the German authorities. They are full of German wounded.

The chief German surgeon in charge of the Red Cross work at Lille told a French doctor that the Germans lost over 150,000 men on the banks of the Yser.

The story of Arras is different. The daily number of shells poured upon the town is now reduced to an average of 200. The hours of bombardment are always the same—from 10:15 a. m. to midday and from 2 p. m. to 6 p. m. During the night a marmite, as they are called, is dropped at hourly intervals to mark time and replace the clocks which have been destroyed.

The hospital of St. John has been completely destroyed; two bare portions of its east wall are all that remain. The Hotel Des Postes is three-quarters in ruins; the historic belfry is entirely gone. The Rue Faldherbe, the principal business thoroughfare, is in ruins. The Palais de St. Vaast, the cathedral, the archbishop's palace, the college and every monument and historic building lie smoldering in ruins.

Over 350 houses have been leveled and 300 others partly destroyed. The total casualties, on the other hand, are only sixty killed and eighty wounded, all of whom were civilians.

SAYS HUSBAND MADE

SALT LAKE, Dec. 5.—Letters introduced in court to show that the defendant had made love to his wife's

sister figured in the divorce suit of Ellen Y. Jackson against Henry B. Jackson, heard by Judge C. W. Morse in the district court yesterday. Mrs. Jackson was given a decree of divorce as prayed for.

The letters supplemented evidence given by the plaintiff and her mother concerning the alleged attentions of Jackson to his sister-in-law.

Eight other interlocutory decrees and one final decree of divorce were granted by Judge Morse yesterday.

Interlocutory decrees were given to Nettie Bridwell from George K. Bridwell, Moe Beecher from William Beecher, Sue Kennard from W. E. Kennard, Jenta S. Davis from Lee Davis, Louise Rhodes from George W. Rhodes, Joan W. Savage from Denis F. Savage, Clara Stewart from Nephia Stewart and Alice E. Von Albada from William Von Albada.

The final decree was given Lillian Williams from William B. Williams.

MORE DANGER TO THE NAVIGATORS

London, Dec. 4, 8:52 p. m.—It is the intention of the government to take more stringent measures to hinder the operations of mine-laying and other hostile craft in the English channel, according to a notice issued tonight. This notice says that after December 10, within a specified area of the channel, all lightships, buoys and signal lights are likely to be withdrawn or shifted. Advice is given merchant vessels that navigation with this area will be "exceedingly dangerous" without the aid of pilots, who are to be stationed in certain ports.

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